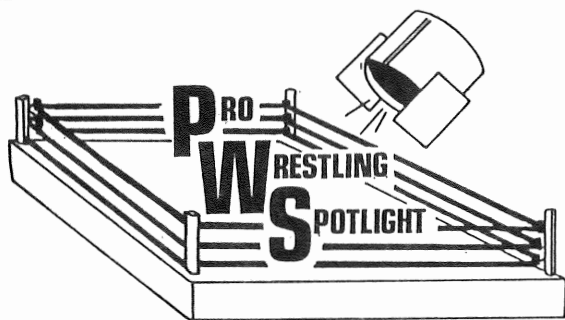




WEEKLY

MARCH 23, 1992

VOLUME I, NO. 11

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AND NOW, THE END IS NEAR.....



**STORY BY JOHN AREZZI
ON PAGE 2**

WHEN THE WALLS COME TUMBLING DOWN

The above headline comes from the Frank Sinatra song, "My Way." It seems appropriate considering the events of the past several weeks and what looms on the horizon.

If the day of December 7, 1941 will "live in infamy" in U.S. history, then you can be sure March 1992 will be etched in Titan Sports history. The wrestling company known as the WWF, and its CEO, Vincent K. McMahon are buckling up their seat belts -- this month has been and is going to be explosive.

The shots will now be non-stop. An L.A. Times expose, which is scheduled to be reprinted simultaneously in many U.S. papers, fed to the world's media via national wire services is first. The lawsuit by a young man formally employed as a WWF "ring boy" alleging sex abuse is expected to be filed any day. The "20/20" steroid piece airs (barring a last minute legal hitch) by the time you read this. The tabloid "The Star" will print a major story on March 16th. Geraldo Rivera's show "Now It Can Be Told" is readying a segment. The CBS Evening News with Dan Rather has entered the picture. And, who knows what else is upcoming.

Resignations by Pat Patterson, Terry Garvin (who is rumored to have left the country on vacation) and most recently, ring announcer Mel Phillips, have rocked the Federation.

Hulk Hogan's last appearance in the WWF for an indefinite period will be a Wrestlemania VIII on April 5th. That show, usually the yearly showcase for the WWF, has fallen into a category of being an afterthought considering all that continues to happen on what seems like an hourly basis.

It is an incredible time. The momentum that is building is like a pressure cooker about to burst.

We've heard that Vince McMahon is preparing a damage control PR campaign which could be crucial to his business future. And Titan is spreading the word about possible lawsuits to those reporting "irresponsibly." Alex Marvez of the Miami Herald and publisher of "Three Count" has already been issued a "legal" letter, and those closely covering the staggering events surrounding Titan Sports are preparing for letters sent by Titan's attorneys. It seems like war lines have been drawn.

The next few weeks will be a period which will be nerve wracking to cover. Look for front page coverage in hundreds of newspapers, and most TV news organizations. Brace yourself, the worst is yet to come.

Pro Wrestling Spotlight RADIO HOUR

- NEWS INTERVIEWS HIGHLIGHTS
- Hosted by JOHN AREZZI
- Call In at (212) 477-5610
- SUNDAY NIGHTS from 10 to 11 pm.

WEVD 1050 AM

RUMOR MILL

by JOHN AREZZI

Is Honky Tonk man headed in to WCW? We've heard reports he might be, and if not, he should be...As Jim Ross reported on the WCBS-TV edition of WCW Pro Wrestling on March 7th, "There is absolutely no truth to the rumor that Abdullah the Butcher will be appearing on John Arezzi's Pro Wrestling Radio Talk Show." Thanks for plugging the show!...K. Allen Frey on an overseas trip of the U.K. to solidify relationships there. England and Ireland are hotbeds right now for any product having to do with wrestling, and if WCW gets the proper TV exposure there, they could clean up!...New York fans, mark April 25th on your calendar, a wrestling mini convention is being planned for that day. More details next week...Koko B Ware coming back to the WWF. Koko is happy to leave the USWA circuit with best friend Frankie in tow. Kimala was rumored to almost have eaten the poor thing live. Frankie is the only wrestling manager to have never interfered in a match...Can somebody tell me what "being in limbo" actually is. This is the official status of Legion of Doom according to those who have talked to "Little Stevie" Planamenta of the WWF...Catch Mike Lano's "Canvas Cavity" show. It's a gas. Mike's closing line of "Be good to your teeth or they'll be steroids to you" is goofy. There is no truth to the rumor that Mike is working as an assistant to Steve Planamenta, even though he has seen handing out the WWF press release announcing the Patterson-Garvin resignations at the WCW show in California this past Saturday.

NEWSBRIEFS

WCW LOSES MEADOWLANDS

World Championship Wrestling's next show at the New Jersey Meadowlands will be its last, indefinitely. The WWF has struck a deal with the Brendan Byrne Arena which will return them to the facility. WCW executive K. Allen Frey was "very disappointed" at the latest turn of events, and is going to "pursue other New York area venues aggressively." We will attempt to get a statement from Meadowlands officials for our next issue.

WRESTLEWAR MAIN EVENT SET

WCW's next live Pay Per View will take place on May 17th, from Jacksonville, Florida. In the main event, a 2-ring steel cage "war games" match, the Dangerous Alliance (Rick Rude, Steve Austin, Bobby Eaton, Larry Zbyszko, and Arn Andersen) will meet the team composed of Sting - Nikita Koloff, Barry Windham, Dustin Rhodes and Ricky Steamboat.

LOU FERRIGNO LEAVES WBF

Well, toss out the speculation about Lou Ferrigno being the special referee for the Hulk Hogan - Sid Justice match at Wrestlemania VIII. He has left the Titan Sports owned WBF after a disagreement with Vince McMahon. With boxer George Foreman also turning down the guest referee slot, who will it be? Our choice is Phil Mushnick of the N.Y. Post!

(Continued on page 4)

This space was intended to house our standard "Where Are They Now?" but the interview led us in another direction. So....

PATERA LASHES OUT!

by VINCE RUSSO & KEN PATERA

PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT WEEKLY: How did you become involved with professional wrestling?

KEN PATERA: I became involved in wrestling in 1961, can you imagine that? 31 years ago I was a wrestling fan as a small boy, and I met an old fart by the name of Adnan El Casey -- that's the Sheik. I met him in Portland, Oregon. I talked to him and a couple of their wrestlers, and they suggested that when I grow up and go through college I make professional wrestling a career. It was like a pipe dream for me, but 12 years later in 1973 after the Olympic games I contacted a gentleman by the name of Verne Gagne, who most people back east would never know. He was the promoter and the champion of the AWA. I cut an agreement with him on a personal service contract for five years, which failed miserably -- typical wrestling promoter. All he wanted was money, money, money. I broke that contract off myself, and he tried to sue me. He had his lawyer contact me, I was working down in Louisiana at the time, making 35 bucks a night, and he wanted 10% of that, plus 25% penalty for back wages. In those days you didn't make any money.

PWSW: You did start by wrestling in the AWA then?

KP: Yes, I was in the AWA for 1 1/2 years, and I made good money. Then, when I went over to some of those other promotions like down in Dallas, and over to Atlanta, back in those days it was "Well that Patera, he's Verne Gagne's boy, so f___ him, he'll only be here for 3 or 4 months. Gagne's a prick anyway, so we'll f___ him." They only paid me about 1/3 of what I should have been making. I was making less than a f___ ditch digger, which really pissed me off. I told Verne to go f___ himself, and I started booking myself with a little more success. Then, after 3 years in the business I found out that everybody in the business hated Verne Gagne. So I had to learn the hard way. But after that the business was good to me because I took care of myself.

PWSW: When did you first enter the WWWF?

KP: I did TV in 1976. Then I started in January of 77. I was there a year and five months in the 70's. Then I went back to the NWA back in Charlotte. I was there for a year and seven months, then I went back to the WWWF.

PWSW: Being that you worked for both Vince McMahon Sr. and Jr., how would you compare the two?

KP: The old man was an honorable person. The Vince that runs it now is a f___ egomaniac. He's like the old Verne Gagne, except more treacherous. I wouldn't trust the son of a bitch as far as I could throw him.

PWSW: You heard what happened over there this week with Patterson and...

KP: The faggots resigned under pressure. I'm sure it was under discussion. Anybody that let homosexuality run fragrantly through a national business that deals with children and young adults is sick.

PWSW: Was there any homosexuality involved in there

when you were wrestling?

KP: I've known those guys for years, before they even went to work for Vinnie. They're flaming faggots -- the whole lot of them.

PWSW: Recently Barry O did an interview and indicated that not being homosexual hindered his career. How do you feel about that?

KP: I don't think that had any bearing on it.

PWSW: What do you think about the steroid issue?

KP: It's totally ridiculous. Everybody wants to be big. Davey Boy Smith is a 160 pound guy. He's a 275 pound guy now. These guys aren't athletes. If they were doing national competitions and olympic game stuff fine. They're a bunch of over-blown clowns now.

PWSW: Do you feel that a promoter such as Vince McMahon Jr. might pressure these guys to become bigger?

KP: Vince is behind the whole thing. It's his plot. These guys, the majority of them would probably do it without Vince's encouragement, but because of Vince's encouragement he puts those guys under the gun. Davey Boy Smith would probably want to be that way because the Ultimate Warrior is his idol anyway. He hung around the guy and got all his secrets about the steroids, because of that he's all blown up. And Terry Szopinski (The Warlord) and those guys -- Jesus. I mean, when steroids were legal before 1972-73 in athletics, fine. The only ones that abused it then was the body builders, because they have an image problem to begin with. It wasn't the weight lifters. Of course, now a days it's turned out that way. There was some steroid usage when I was competing, but very little, it was monitored and the people that took it took it sensibly.

PWSW: Was there much steroid use in wrestling in your later years?

KP: It got real bad about six years ago. You know Hulk and all those guys. When I first started in the business there was just a couple of guys. Billy Graham, I can't even think of anybody else.

PWSW: What's your opinion on Graham and Shultz now speaking out on the steroid issue?

KP: Shultz is a looney tune that would do anything for publicity, but that's his gig. And if you would have known Billy's background you would think that he's a despicable f___ character, his days back in Phoenix. But I like Billy.

PWSW: Is this it for Vince McMahon Jr. and the WWF?

KP: F___ no. That's like saying the end of wrestling, are you kidding me. That has no bearing on it whatsoever. Vince will survive super. It's going to hurt his business a little bit, but let's face it, people want to be entertained and people like wrestling. Let's say it might hurt 20%, but I don't think Turner's group has the 20% margin to be hurt, they might. Turner will pull it out. Turner doesn't need wrestling. Wrestling needs Turner. Where Vince still needs wrestling because he doesn't have a big multi-media conglomerate like Turner does. Vince will survive.

PWSW: What are some highlights of your career that are special to you?

KP: In wrestling, to tell you the truth I'm pretty hard pressed to f___ find one. I never considered wrestling other than a business. I met a lot of nice people. There

are a lot of honorable people in the business unfortunately they are all dead or retired now. I can't really say that there are too many left.

PWSW: Where do you think the sport is headed?

KP: Vince had a strangle hold on it, and he did it with his personality, it's not his ingenuity or his f_____ genius "so called" by the gay portion of his operation. They all thought he was a f_____ genius for putting dresses on people and putting make-up on them and fraternizing homosexuality to the hilt. He's intelligent enough to realize what he has on his hands, and being in the New York market, you can do just about anything you want to do with an item. He had a powerful item, a product that could be really taken to Fifth Avenue and marketed to the hilt, and that's exactly what he did, he surrounded himself with brilliant people. Vince is no dummy.

PWSW: Do you think he may have carried things a little too far?

KP: Yeah, that's what I mean. His ego's gotten completely carried away.

PWSW: People think that this time they got Vince, however, I don't think so.

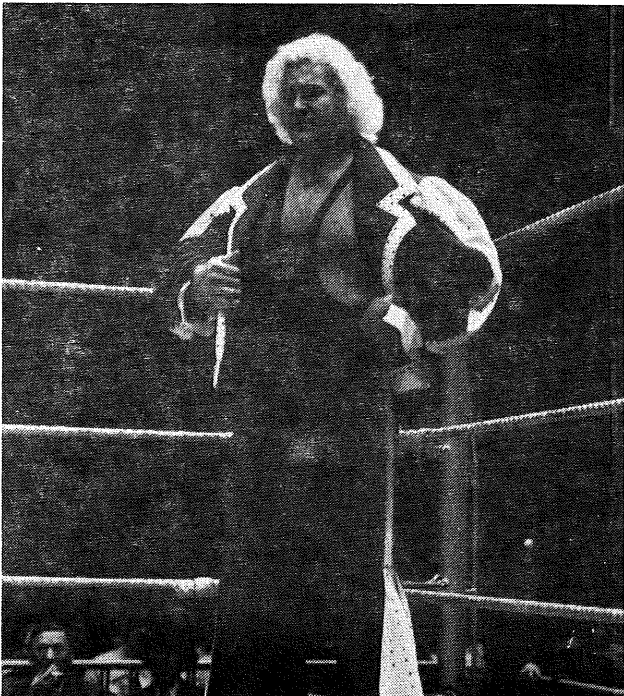
KP: People don't give a sh_t what people do in their personal lives. Is Donald Trump supposed to roll over and play dead. Jimmy Swaggert survived it for years.

PWSW: Ken, are you currently wrestling?

KP: I wrestled over in Rib Lake, Wisconsin about a month ago. I wrestled for Tom Jannety out of Boston on the 28th of this month. I'm wrestling in South Bend, Indiana next Saturday. Then I'm wrestling for Tom Jannety on April 10th and 11th. I like these small promotions much better. Because of my age, I would never get into the traveling anyway. I'm 48 now, I don't need all that bullsh_t.

PWSW: Tell me about your gym.

KP: We do fantastic business. I'm northeast of downtown St. Paul, Minnesota. We've been here for three years.



Newsbriefs... Continued from page 2

STING/RUDE BRAWL AT PRESS CONFERENCE

In one of the most realistic angles seen in a long time, WCW U.S. champion Rick Rude, and newly crowned WCW world title holder Sting got into a brawl at the new champs post match press conference, in Milwaukee.

If you have not seen this yet, you owe it to yourself to do so. In a real setting, Sting was fielding questions from real wrestling reporters, including George Napolitano and Jimmy Suzuki. Other wrestling media in attendance included Linda Russa, Bob Smith of Pro Wrestling Illustrated, among others.

In comparison to the WWF's Wrestlemania VIII press conference, featuring almost all Titan Sports employees as "plants" this WCW angle was a believable if not legit media gathering. Besides that, the one minute brawl between Sting and Rude looked like a total shoot.

AN EDITORIAL

by JOHN AREZZI

My phone has been ringing non-stop pace several weeks. It has gotten to the point that I want it turned off. Today I received three different calls which really disturbed me. They all said the same thing. "Vince is out to get you. You and your newsletter friends are destroying wrestling. You are public enemy #1 to the WWF." I am angry and exhausted.

I entered the wrestling business because I love it. I enjoyed the feuds, the action, the slick talking individuals who made up the performers of the WWWF, NWA, AWA, and all the other groups. I do not enjoy the business anymore, at least not the way I used to. I see the ugly head of scandal, perversion, and deception more and more each day and it doesn't go away.

Calls have been coming in to me from main stream media professionals digging deep into the alleged sex abuse that will seriously, if not critically hurt professional wrestling. Those calls hurt. They hurt because in a month from now, or maybe sooner than that, many people will lump everyone associated with pro wrestling into one category. And, the category will not be a flattering one.

Pro wrestling has never been respected. It was never treated kindly from the media, with the exception of those few years in the 1980's, when it was a fad for the yuppies. It was a "hip" thing for the record, TV, and motion picture industry for a while. But, those folks have long disappeared from the scene. When I was a kid I would write letters to sports editors of newspapers, arguing my case about coverage of pro wrestling. I fought for its integrity. Today, it's hard to fight for the little dignity pro wrestling has left.

Where does the blame lie. Are the wrestling journalists covering the major stories part of its downfall? For those who blame us, I answer that we are as guilty as Woodward and Bernstein are. The parties who have caused the investigative reporting are the guilty ones. They should not blame reporters for doing their job. Personal vendettas have been accused by some in the business. Why else would these unflattering stories survive?

I want to cover pro wrestling again. I want to speculate about upcoming feuds in the ring. I want to report on championship matches, not alleged homosexual harassment.

During the past three years I have developed a reputation for accurate reporting of pro wrestling. With a reputation comes a responsibility to not disappoint those who rely on your reporting. As sick as I have become of writing about all of this, I can't stop now, although I sure as hell want to.

These are strong stories coming out over the next few weeks. They will not be pretty. They will not go away. And I must continue to cover them. I have to be careful about each story I cover. These are those who will look for any slight inaccuracy and try to sue, claiming slander.

I feel the pressure, but what I feel must be a minute part of the tension a guy like Dave Meltzer is going through. His phone is a proverbial hot line. And, as far as the parties these stories are aimed at -- yes, they are angry. Yes, they want revenge. Yes, their reputations are in jeopardy. Maybe thought should have been given to what could happen to them if alleged victims decided to speak out, which is happening now.

No one is above the law. If a United States President can be brought down, along with his closest advisors and staff members, which as we all know happened in 1974, then anyone can.

The party is over guys.

KNOWING WHEN TO SAY NO

Editorial by VINCE RUSSO

The WWF has been turned upside down this week by child sex abuse and homosexual allegations. At this point it is important for us all to remember one thing -- Ken Patera said it best, "People don't give a shit what people do in their personal lives."

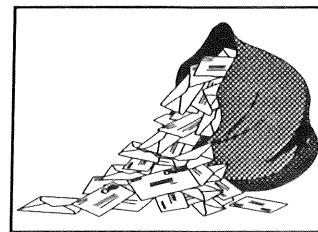
We have two separate issues on our hands here. The first being alleged child sex abuse. This is a crime, the LAW will handle this. The second issue concerns alleged homosexuality in the WWF. I have heard names mentioned this week regarding homosexuality inside the WWF, and I can only shake my head. However, I DO NOT care what people do in their personal lives. What I am concerned about is just one issue: **DOES HOMOSEXUALITY HAVE A BEARING ON THE WWF?** Is this why we see grown men sporting dresses? Does one's sexuality have a final say on the dictation of one's career? Unfortunately, I don't have the answers to these questions, and I probably never will. However, what I do know is this -- if you are employed by a company that let's your sexuality decide your future, then you had better get your head examined. Nobody can **MAKE** you wear a dress, nobody can **MAKE** you change your sexual tendencies, and nobody can run your life. You could pay this reporter all the money in the world, if any organization let my sexuality decide my future I would simply say -- **SCREW YOU!** It's called dignity, fellas. Knowing when to get out. Making somebody do something they don't want to do? Remember the late "Adorable" Adrian Adonis?

Do I think that homosexuality has some bearing on a wrestler's future in the WWF? Yes I do, but that is just

my opinion. However, **NO** -- these allegations won't hurt the WWF. **NO** -- people won't stop watching. And, **YES** - people don't care what people do in their personal lives.

Money can only talk to a certain point. I only hope that the heroes of my children have the dignity and the pride to do only what they believe in.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



I like your magazine alot and read it cover to cover as soon as it comes.

My first involvement in pro wrestling was on TV, Bill Cardille was the WWWF announcer out of Pittsburgh-Philadelphia.

Victor Rivera was on the program and I was impressed with his high flying maneuver, so naturally I tried them on my brother. My father was not so thrilled as he laid a Killer Kowalski-like beating on me. The rest is history, I became a collector of all wrestling magazines and whatever I could get a hold of.

I am interested in obtaining a 64-page magazine called Bruno circa 1971. It had a cover that folded out to be a poster of Bruno. If any of your readers or listeners know where I could obtain this issue I would appreciate it.

In closing I would like to say I enjoy your newsletter alot, and look forward to your radio show every Sunday. Keep up the excellent work!

Tom Carson

Allentown, PA

Something has been bothering me for about a month now. As I sat down to watch TV one night I noticed a Slim Jim commercial. I couldn't believe who was doing the commercial. It was The Ultimate Warrior. Is this what he has been reduced to? He goes from heavyweight champ to Slim Jim star. During the January 31st MSG show I saw people wearing Ultimate Warrior jackets, shirts, and I even saw a father and son with their face painted. McMahon made a big mistake by letting Hellwig go. He was the second highest seller in the WWF. I just hate to see Hellwig reduced to the star of the Slim Jim commercial.

Chris Baxter

New Windsor, NY

MAIL
YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
TO

PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT WEEKLY
99 Middle Country Road
Coram, NY 11727

MAKING OF A CHAMPION

It's been about six weeks since I began my training to become the manager of Bo Davis. A quest that for me has been a tremendous experience. However, I have found out that this story is no longer just about Bo Davis and myself, it goes much deeper than that.

I've found something at Johnny Rodz' School of Professional Wrestling. Something that has meant a lot to me. There are no steroids here, no child sex abuse cases, and to my knowledge no homosexuality. Here at Gleason's Gym there is only one thing -- wrestling -- PROFESSIONAL wrestling.

This week alone I have watched over ten hours of wrestling on television. WWF, WCW, GWF, you name it. However, the truest wrestling I've seen this week came from Brooklyn at the school of the "Unpredictable One." Names that you never even heard of, The Mexican Rebel, Larry Brisco, Rhino Power, Mat Madman, Skull Von Krus, and even pint-size Java Shibibi, to name just a few. These young men wrestle -- really wrestle. With the exception of a few, the WWF never looked this good, and never will. These guys aren't just actors, they're trained athletes in every sense of the word. They exemplify everything that a professional wrestler should be. They make other so-called professionals such as: The Big Boss Man, The Warlord, Virgil, Earthquake, Typhoon, Sergeant Slaughter, and Jim Duggan look absolutely sick. Why are they here at Gleason's and not in the WWF? It's easy, this is such a twisted business, that is almost to the point where talent means nothing. Especially in the WWF. Look at the last two wrestlers the WWF has brought in, Tatonka and Papa Shanga. There are at least ten wrestlers here at this school that would make both of these individuals look like Richard Simmons. There is one wrestler down here who goes by the name of "The Mean Machine," Larry Brisco. This Bob Backlund type wrestler would pin Sid Justice before he could squeal Harry Wippleman. These young hopefuls can do it all, and it's clear that they do it purely for their love of the game. Don't even try to tell me that half of the air-filled cartoon characters in the WWF have the wrestling foundation which these young athletes have, because they don't. Yes, some do -- Savage, Flair, and a couple of others, however the majority -- NOT. The truth of the matter is that if you want to see wrestling at it's best, don't blow a twenty dollar bill at Madison Square Garden, go to Gleason's Gym for free. I can guarantee you that you won't get any satanic speeches here.

Will these guys make it? Maybe, maybe not. However, the bottom line is this, these guys will be able to walk away with dignity knowing that they represent the positive side of the sport. They can hold their heads high knowing that they are the "real" professional wrestlers of this world.

THE PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT WEEKLY IS DISTRIBUTED AT THE FOLLOWING PLACES:

THE BATTERS BOX - 52 North Ocean Ave, Patchogue, NY
BUSH HOBBIES - Park Plaza Shop Ctr, Hawkins Ave, Lk Ronkonkoma, NY
FLASH POINT - 320 Main St, Port Jefferson, NY
GOLDEN MEMORIES - 1245 Middle Country Road, Selden, NY
KRX SPORTS CARDS - Prince Rd, Rocky Point, NY
PORT COMICS & CARDS - 3120 Route 112, Medford, NY

BOOB TUBE BASHINGS & BRAVOS

by VINCE RUSSO

"I walk with Satan hand in hand, day by day, We've always been very close.

"If the Winter Olympics had an event for clubbing seals, I would win the gold medal.

"Just like those poor helpless little seals that flounder on the ice, I will take that hammer and crush your stinking skull.

"After I crush your skull I am going to take you and that geek Paul Bearer and put both of you on that funeral fire. That pilot light will go up, and I will take this hand and put it on the lever, that sweet lever, the one that turns up the gas and roast the both of you, brother.

"Then I will send the both of you to that lovely place I call hell."

The words of **Jake Roberts**. WWF, those responsible for this monologue are sick. Your minds are twisted and demented, and you belong in a mental institution. There is no end to how far you will go. This is SATANISM, my friends, and I'll be damned if I let my kids sit here and listen to this garbage. You should be embarrassed by your stupidity and your irresponsibility. Parents, I recommend you turn off your television sets. Enough is enough already.

In the Global Wrestling Federation **Hot Stuff Eddie Gilbert** faced **The Dark Patriot** (Doug Gilbert) in a title match. After putting a foreign object in his mask, the champion, the Dark Patriot, failed to pin Hot Stuff. Gilbert returned the favor and clocked the Dark Patriot with a foreign object of his own. Gilbert covered the Dark Patriot with a two count before **Bruce Prichard**, **Barry Horowitz** and **Scott Anthony** interfered. The Dark Patriot retained the belt.

With outside help from Bruce Prichard, Barry Horowitz defeated **Jerry Lynn** to capture the light-heavyweight championship. It's great to see a "true wrestler" like Horowitz finally get his do.

I enjoy Bruce Prichard (Brother Love), but he would be even better if he'd drop the Roddy Piper act.

Missy Hyatt should be more like **Loni Blackstone**, beauty, body, and BRAINS!

Must go: **Brute Force** and **Sammantha**.

Side Note: Wouldn't it be something if **Terry Funk** was the one putting up these bounties.....HMMMMMM.

In the WCW, **Robert Morton** pinned **Brad Armstrong** by hanging on to the top rope. **Brian Pillman** ran into the ring crying foul. The trio then went at it.

Immediately following was a **Johnny B. Badd** interview which Pillman interrupted in order to challenge Morton. Morton appeared on the scene, and Pillman shoved Badd out of the way to get at him. Badd retaliated by dropping Pillman. Morton then pounced on Brian before Brad Armstrong made the save.

Arn Anderson and **Brian Pillman** made anti-steroid announcements.

The U.S. tag-team champions, **Greg Valentine** and **The Taylor Made Man** were attacked by **Marcus Alexander Presley** and **Tom Zink** during an interview. Presley wound up with a bum neck after Taylor pounced on it from the third rope.

The following match was to be **Z-Man/Pillman/Bagwell** against **Anderson/Eaton/Zbyszko**. Due to injury Bagwell

didn't see much action. However, he was there at the end when he was stunned and pinned by the **Dangerous Alliance**.

Steve Austin pinned **Van Hammer** in a television title match. After the match, **Rude** attacked Hammer for striking **Paul E**. At the program's end, **Sting** and **Steamboat** entered the ring to take on Rude and Austin.

Morton/Badd vs. Pillman/Armstrong -- After being hit by Morton on several occasions due to mis-communication, **Johnny B. Badd** finally dropped his own partner. Pillman then easily covered Morton for the pin.

Vinnie Vegas was disqualified in a match with **Ron Simmons** due to outside interference by **Harley Race**.

How much better was the WCW press conference compared to the last one staged by the WWF? NIGHT AND DAY BABY!

Quote of the week: **Jim Ross** on **Cactus Jack**, "He's a few sandwiches shy of a picnic."

THE WRESTLING MENU

by **DONNY LAIBLE**

Let's get right down to business, if you will. Just who is Nick Diamond? Think, think. During the Terry Taylor-Marcus Alexander Bagwell match on the SuperBrawl card, am I the only person who expected Greg Valentine to be introduced during the post-match mugging of Bagwell? Then again there probably was just one extra tuxedo of which The Junk Yard Dog was the recipient...And since we are talking major disappointments, I've been saying my prayers, eating my vitamins and walking senior citizens across busy streets - all in the name of believing Jimmy Valiant would be the Ninja in Steamboat's corner in Milwaukee.

Steve Williams and Terry Gordy should have tremendously exciting (and let's not forget brutal) contests with The Steiners. Now that's what is known as a "We Wrestle" atmosphere. While on the subject, what do you think about bringing in Black Jack Mulligan as their manager? Add Pat Tanaka and Chris Candido to the list of guys WCW needs to think real hard about bringing in for the light heavyweight division...That does it, let's get a petition going calling for Black Bart to grow his beard back...Nostalgia has taken over my thought process. Out of the blue, I'm thinking -- just who was the better tag team -- the Valiants: Jimmy and Johnny or Black Gordman and Goliath? HELP!

The next time you're checking out the wrestling magazines at the newsstands -- pay close attention to **SUPERSTAR WRESTLERS** and a couple more put out by the Starlog group. Many of the pics on the covers and inside are shot by Gregory Napolitano (son of writer/photographer George Napolitano) who is still in junior high school!...Terry Garvin and Gary Young seem to always put out as hard as possible during every match. What a transformation Terry has gone through, publicly. When he handled the co-host duties during USWA TV broadcasts from Dallas his appearance and that candelabra didn't do him justice. Hopefully Terry will take possession of the GWF light heavyweight belt, Who knows, maybe Garvin and Eddie Gilbert will team up and win the tag straps.

Give up on the Nick Diamond quiz? And the answer is -

- Nick Bockwinkle. In the late 1950's when Pedro Martinez was just getting wet behind the ears as a promoter Nick wrestled for him in the Buffalo, New York region using the Diamond billing...Billy Anderson is on his way back to Japan for an April tour with FMW as The Starman. That's three tours in six months. By the way, for the record during the Sting-Luger match at SuperBrawl Jim Ross stated Red Bastien trained Sting -- he forgot to mention Anderson as a co-trainer.

Speaking of records, Spotlighter Chuck Langerman tells the MENU that Ron Simmons and James Brooks led Warner Robins, Georgia High School to an undefeated season and a number 4 ranking nationally in 1976...Does anyone out there in Newsletter-land know what Raymond Rougeau is up to these days? Joseph Puccio of Richmond Hill, New York is asking...Mike Shaw is hitting the mats in Mexico as Aaron Grundy. Recently he's teamed with Atlantis and Hurricane Sevilla. Before taking up wrestling, Mike played professional softball with the Milwaukee Schlitz.

What would you say to a co-op card, involving the USWA, IWCCW and GWF, sounds fun to me. I'm serious about this. Put this super bowl-type of card together and I'll be the first to make travel arrangements. By the way, the photo that appeared in issue #8 (March 9) of those two young, awesome looking brawlers was taken in 1975 of yours truly and our leader -- John Arezzi. Remember, for a personal reply do send a SASE. Until next week -- parry on Wayne party of Garth.

What a major mistake I made -- throw me in a ring with Van Hammer, I deserve it. Last week I incorrectly listed the address for Mat Marketplace published by Sheldon Goldberg. To subscribe, write PO Box 2371, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130. The newsletter is stuffed full of classifieds offering every type of wrestling memorabilia imaginable. You won't be sorry in plopping down \$2.50 a copy.

And how can I have forgotten a plug for Ron Lemieux's Arena Report, now into issue 11? His bi-weekly publication offers results, guest columns and other interesting pages of wrestling news. You'll get hooked on his Ramblings column with covers anything and everything in the sport today. If Florida mat news interests you, Ron serves it up like no other. For info -- PO Box 952547, Lake Mary, FL 32795.

Jeff Mullin's Pro Wrestling Sushi, PO Box 36189, San Jose, CA 95158 is available at \$1.50 a copy. You will laugh out loud when reading his entertaining work...Bob Murphy, PO box 951, Humble, TX 77347 operates the Chaz fan club...Nikita Koloff and The Fantastics have clubs run in their honor by Billie Jesse, 1000 Stonegate Road N9, Kingsport, TN 37660...Anyone who can trade posed and action pics of GWF and USWA wrestlers let me know...The Virginia Wrestling Association has a yearbook for \$2.00 a copy - PO Box 34142, Richmond, VA 23234.

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MAT MEMORIES

by JOHN AREZZI

During the early 1970's going to a live wrestling event was always a big event for me. The monthly shows at Madison Square Garden were the one day I craved. Each month I needed that live wrestling fix -- and each month I wanted to be more involved with the goings on at the Garden.

The night before a Garden show was always a sleepless night for me. The Garden shows were usually on Monday nights, so Sunday evenings for me were usually butterfly time, I would lie in bed on Sundays with a number of things going through my mind. First of all, I waited for my dad to get home. He worked each Sunday, sometimes getting home real late. Since he financed all my wrestling trips back then, I couldn't relax until I heard that familiar sound of his Oldsmobile 98 pulling up to the side of the house and the car door slamming shut. Then I worried if my favorite Madison Square Garden box office employee, Bill Baker, would be working. I discovered from a couple of friends the well guarded secret that if you went to Bill's window for a seven dollar ringside ticket, gave him a ten dollar bill and said "keep the change" or something to that effect, you would be rewarded with a choice ringside seat, ranging from front row to no further than third row. But, those tickets would only be available the day of the show.

Going to school the day of a Garden show was always a waste of time. I kept looking at the clock and counting the hours to the show.

I remember packing my camera bag before meeting my best friend, Frank Favale, to hop on the Long Island Rail Road to the Garden. After getting our ringside seats from Bill Baker, we'd head to one of the most exciting parts of the day, waiting outside the employees entrance to "see who we could see."

Waiting outside the Garden employee entrance all those years ago really makes me smile. It was there I first met a group of characters you couldn't forget, even if you wanted to. It was here I first met "Captain Lenny." He was a guy that wore mittens and a wool cap, even in the summer. He was a goof ball. "Professor" Elliot Maron was also first introduced to me then. I still see the Professor around today at most New York area shows, and seeing him now brings back yesterday. He remains a New York institution. There was Louie Green, Jay Rosen, and Jimmy Mack (who all hilariously hosted the New York Wrestling Radio Show).

Everyone gathered outside the Garden to gossip about what rumors were circulating. It was the place to show off photos you took the previous month, and to buy photos from various photographers who hawked their shots. But, mostly, it was to meet the wrestlers on their way to the arena.

I always kept my keystone camera with the built in flash handy, to shoot a photo of a wrestling personality in his street clothes. The first person always to arrive at the Garden was Lou Albano. He was always cordial to the fans except one day when he looked like he was staggering into the entrance. His face was scratched from top to bottom, from forehead to cheek. It was gross! He was wearing dark glasses and his tie was

crooked. A sight I'll never forget, and one I captured on film.

Most of the regulars used the ramp entrance to avoid the fans. Stars coming in for a special appearance like Terry Funk, Dory Funk Sr, Fred Curry, the Spoiler (Don Jardine), Mil Mascaras, were always great to see. I'll never forget the day the Fabulous Moolah made that historic visit to the Garden to wrestle Vicki Williams in the first ever sanctioned ladies match in New York. She was smiling from ear to ear, and got a big ovation as she entered the employees entrance.

Those were fun days. I always got a special feeling settling down in my ringside seat at the Garden, which always seemed gigantic. The matches were always exciting, and the crowd was electric. Those memories of the Garden are ones I'll cherish, even in today's days of steroids and scandal, which make them even more important to me.

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* 12/17/89 - Show #36. Live remote broadcast from first PWS Christmas party. Guests Paul E. Dangerously, Power Twins

* 12/24/89 - Show #37. Norman, Chris Cruise

* 12/30/89 - Show #38. 1989 recap (taped highlights from past year)

* 1/7/90 - Show #39. Guest Cactus Jack (classic!)

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* 2/4/90 - Show #43. Guests Dave Meltzer, Steve Beverly

* 2/11/90 - Show #44. Guests Dave Meltzer, Bob Smith

* 3/4/90 - Show #47. Guest Diamond Dallas Page

* 3/11/90 - Show #48. Guests Dave Meltzer, Gary Juster

* 3/18/90 - Show #49. Guest Cactus Jack Manson

* 3/25/90 - Show #50. Superstar Billy Graham (Graham's first disclosures on steroid abuse in pro wrestling)

* 4/8/90 - Show #53. First Anniversary Show

* 4/29/90 - Show #56. Guests Big John Studd, Sgt. Slaughter

* 5/6/90 - Show #57. Guests Trivia Day with Mike Omansky

* 6/3/90 - Show #61. Cactus Jack co-host, announces he's leaving NWA

* 6/10/90 - Show #62. Guests Terry Funk and Chris Cruise (their first broadcast together since leaving the NWA)

* 6/17/90 - Show #63. Guests Bruno Sammartino, Cactus Jack, Steve Beverly

* 6/24/90 - Show #64. Guest John Studd

* 7/8/90 - Show #66. Sting wins NWA title, Joe Pedicino, Steve Beverly

* 7/15/90 - Show #67. Guests Dave Meltzer, Ox Baker

* 7/22/90 - Show #68. Guest Cactus Jack

* 7/29/90 - Show #69. Guest Ricky Steamboat

* 8/5/90 - Show #70. Guests Wade Keller, N.Y. Daily News columnist "The Slammer"

* 8/12/90 - Show #71. Guest Larry Zbyszko

* 8/19/90 - Show #72. Last WYNG show, guest Sting

** 9/2/90 - Show #73. (Show format back to two hours) First WBAB-AM Show, Guests Bill Apker, Paul E.

** 9/9/90 - Show #74. Guests Dave Meltzer, Wade Keller, Steve Beverly.

** 9/14/90 - Show #75. Guests Vice Steamboat, Tony Rumble, Joe Pedicino

** 9/22/90 - Show #76. Cactus Jack co-host

** 01/7/90 - Show #78. Paul E. co-host

** 10/14/90 - Show #79. Guest Wade Keller

** 10/21/90 - Show #80. Guests John Tolos, Woman, Georfe Napolitano

** 11/4/90 - Show #82. Guests Larry Zbyszko, Steve Beverly

** 11/11/90 - Show #83. CLASSIC! Guests Killer Kowalski and Cactus Jack co-host

** 11/18/90 - Show #84. Co-host Woman, Herb Abrams, John Tolos

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